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INTERNATIONAL LIABILITY FOR INJURIOUS CONSEQUENCES ARISING OUT OF ACTS NOT PROHIBITED BY INTERNATIONAL LAW

Draft articles on International Liability for Injurious Consequences arising out of Acts not Prohibited by International Law: titles and texts of articles adopted by the Drafting Committee at its 45th and 46th sessions

International Liability for Injurious Consequences arising out of Acts not Prohibited by International Law

[CHAPTER I

GENERAL PROVISIONS]

Article 1

Scope of the present articles

The present articles apply to activities not prohibited by international law and carried out in the territory or otherwise under the jurisdiction or control of a State which create a risk of causing significant transboundary harm through their physical consequences.

GE.94-62892 (E)

Article 2

Use of terms

For the purposes of the present articles:

(a) "risk of causing significant transboundary harm" encompasses a low probability of causing disastrous harm and a high probability of causing other significant harm;

(b) "transboundary harm" means harm caused in the territory of or in places under the jurisdiction or control of a State other than the State of origin, whether or not the States concerned share a common border;

(c) "State of origin" means the State in the territory of otherwise under the jurisdiction or control of which the activities referred to in article 1 are carried out.

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[CHAPTER II

PREVENTION]

Article 11

Prior authorization

States shall ensure that activities referred to in article 1 are not carried out in their territory or otherwise under their jurisdiction or control without their prior authorization. Such authorization shall also be required when a major change in the activity is planned.

Article 12

Risk assessment

Before taking a decision to authorize an activity referred to in article 1, a State shall ensure that an assessment is undertaken of the risk of the activity causing significant transboundary harm. Such an assessment shall include an evaluation of the possible impact of that activity on persons or property as well as on the environment of other States.

Article 13

Pre-existing activities

If a State after becoming bound by these articles, ascertains that an activity involving a risk of causing significant transboundary harm is being carried out in its territory or otherwise under its jurisdiction or control

without the authorization as required by article 11, it shall direct those responsible for carrying out the activity that they must obtain the necessary authorization. Pending such compliance, the State may permit the continuation of the activity in question at its own risk.

Article 14*

Measures to prevent or minimize the risk

States shall take legislative administrative or other actions to ensure that all necessary measures are adopted to prevent or minimize the risk of transboundary harm of activities referred to in article 1.

Article 14 bis [20 bis]

Non-transference of risk

In taking measures to prevent or minimize a risk of causing significant transboundary harm, States shall ensure that the risk is not simply transferred, directly or indirectly, from one area to another or transformed from one type of risk into another.

Article 15

Notification and information

If the assessment referred to in article 12 indicates a risk of causing significant transboundary harm:

(a) the State of origin shall notify without delay the States likely to be affected and shall transmit to them the available technical and other relevant information on which the assessment is based and an indication of a reasonable time within which a response is required.

(b) When necessary, such notification may be effected through a competent international organization.

(c) Where it subsequently comes to the knowledge of the State of origin that there are other States likely to be affected, it shall notify them without delay.

Article 16

Exchange of information

While the activity is being carried out, the States concerned shall exchange in a timely manner all information relevant to minimizing any risk of causing significant transboundary harm.

* The expression "prevent or minimize the risk" of transboundary harm in this and other articles will be reconsidered in the light of the decision by the Commission as to whether the concept of prevention includes, in addition to measures aimed at preventing or minimizing the risk of occurrence of an accident includes measures aimed at preventing or minimizing the harm after the occurrence of an accident.

Article 16 bis

Information to the public

States shall, whenever possible and by such means as are appropriate, provide their own public likely to be affected with information relating to the risk and harm that might result from an activity subject to authorization in order to ascertain their views.

Article 17

National security and industrial secrets

Data and information vital to the national security of the State of origin or to the protection of industrial secrets may be withheld, but the State of origin shall cooperate in good faith with the other States concerned in providing as much information as can be provided under the circumstances.

Article 18

Consultations on preventive measures

1. The States concerned shall enter into consultations, at the request of any of them and without delay, with a view to achieving acceptable solutions regarding measures to be adopted in order to prevent or minimize the risk of causing significant transboundary harm and cooperate in the implementation of these measures.

2. States shall seek solutions based on an equitable balance of interests in the light of article 20.

3. If the consultations referred to in paragraph 1 fail to produce an agreed sclution the State of origin shall nevertheless take into account the interests of States likely to be affected and may proceed with the activity at its own risk, without prejudice to the right of any State withholding its agreement to pursue its rights under these articles or any other treaty.

Article 19

Rights of the State likely to be affected

1. When no notification has been given of an activity conducted in the territory or otherwise under the jurisdiction or control of a State, any other State which has serious reason to believe that the activity has created a risk of causing significant harm to it may request consultations under article 18.

2. The request shall be accompanied by a technical assessment setting forth the reasons for such belief. If the activity is found to be one of those referred to in article 1, the State of origin may be requested to pay an equitable share of the cost of the assessment.

Article 20

Factors involved in a balance of interests

In order to achieve an equitable balance of interests as referred to in paragraph 2 of article 18, the States concerned shall take into account all relevant factors and circumstances, including:

(a) the degree of risk of significant transboundary harm and the availability of means of preventing or minimizing such risk or of repairing the harm;

(b) the importance of the activity, taking into account its overall advantages of a social, economic and technical character for the State of origin in relation to the potential harm for the States likely to be affected;

(c) the risk of adverse effects of the activity on the environment and the availability of means of preventing or minimizing such risk or restoring the environment;

(d) the economic viability of the activity in relation to the costs of prevention demanded by the States likely to be affected and to the possibility of carrying out the activity elsewhere or by other means or replacing it with an alternative activity;

(e) the degree to which the States likely to be affected are prepared to contribute to the costs of prevention;

(f) the standards of protection which the States likely to be affected apply to the same or comparable activities and the standards applied in comparable regional or international practice.